

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 were pending. Claims 2 and 5 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms. In this response, claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 5-6 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 and 3-9 remaining pending. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objected to claim 2. Claim 5 has been amended as an independent claim including substantially all limitations of its intervening and base claims. Independent claim 6 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of claim 2. Thus, independent claims 1 and 5-6 are allowable. The rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims. Therefore, all currently pending claims as amended are allowable.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in the subsequent prosecution of the present application.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 8, 2005



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